

achievement.

57% of all students were at or above the MOE attendance expectation ($\geq 94\%$ for the school year.) We are somewhat behind. The chicken pox outbreak contributed to this, however achievement data has shown that there is a strong link between attendance and academic progress.

Targets for 2014 within literacy, numeracy, and attendance will continue to strengthen student achievement in all areas in relation to the national standards. Congratulations students, wonderful learning and well done on working well to succeed! Thank you teachers and staff for sharing your passion for learning in purposeful ways to support the children.

Community News

Waitomo Caves Sports Day – Canteen and Easter Raffle

We would appreciate any donations of chocolates, Easter eggs or goodies for the Easter raffle. These can be handed in at school as soon as possible. Also, baking for the cake stall would be much appreciated and can be either dropped off at school on Friday 22 March, taken to the pavilion on the morning of Saturday 23 March or arrangements made with school 878 7534.





St Paul's Collegiate School –
the road to discovery

ST PAUL'S OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 8 MARCH 2pm

VISIT TIHOI
SUNDAY 16 MARCH 8am

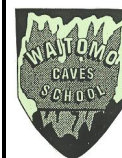
RESERVE YOUR FREE BUS SEAT NOW TO VISIT TIHOI

St Paul's COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

What's Coming Up At Waitomo Caves School

22-23 February	Rotary 4X4 Safari fundraiser
24 February	Board Meeting
24-25 February	Oto Pool training sessions
25 February	Primary Schools Triathlon, Oto 5.15pm
26 February	Small Schools Swimming Sports
5 March	COP's Swimming Sports
6 March	Touch tournament begins
7 March	Waitomo Interschool's Swimming
11-13 March	Tokikapu Marae Camp
12 March	Junior/Middle school day trip to Tokikapu
12 March	Totara class sleepover at school
16 March	Junior Rugby muster, Oto

Mrs Tamae Dimond, Principal ©



Newsletter

Counter Delivery 49
Waitomo Caves

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Fax (07) 878 7219

Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

Term One 2014

Week Three – 21 February

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whanau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

It's week three and we're all back into the swing of things.

Congratulations to Julian. He has fulfilled the requirements of the New Zealand Teachers Council over the last two years, and confirmation has been received that his fully registered teacher status has been approved.

Thank you to those parents and caregivers who were able to attend our recent parent meeting. Robust discussions took place and it is evident that we all have our children's interests at heart.

Keep an eye on the year planner and please keep in mind that newsletter updates will confirm special events and dates as they arise. Some changes may occur.

Welcome to your school community Garry Kete. Garry is our new bus driver who has taken over from Colin.

Parent Meeting

The following items were discussed at the parent meeting: Staffing, Camp, Cultural Connectedness Plan – pepeha, Pool, School Hours, School Team Sports and Fundraising.

School Hours: At present school is open for instruction from 9.00am until



WAITOMO
GLOW WORM
CAVES
NEW ZEALAND



• Private Bag 501, Otorohanga.

• Telephone (07) 878-8227 • Facsimile (07) 878 8858

Proudly Supporting Waitomo Caves School

3.00pm. The school bus arrives with children at 8.00am and for different reasons other children are being dropped off as well. There is an average of 70-75% of the school roll at school before 8.30am. There were discussions around what changes could be made. A major concern is the disruptions and conflicts children have before school resulting in behaviour problems. The consensus was starting classes early at 8.30am and finishing at 2.30pm this is possible as our afternoon bus does not need to wait for the Otorohanga connecting bus. It was also agreed that trialling this would be of benefit being sooner rather than later with this hot weather. Families were encouraged to speak with me regarding any pros or cons relating to their family situation. Anyone who wishes to have further discussions around the possible change of school hours, please contact me at school as soon as possible.

Swimming Sports

Please note Small Schools Swimming Sports will be held on Wednesday 26 February starting at 10.00am. We will need to assemble at the Otorohanga Pool by 9.45am on Wednesday morning. We require parental support therefore could parents please return their pink slips to indicate if they are available to help with transport on Monday at the latest. All Year 3 students and some Year 4 to 8's will be finished by 12.00pm. They will need to be returned to school and join Mrs Steger's special activities for the afternoon.

On Wednesday 5 March our strongest swimmers from Year 4 to 8 will compete at the COP's swimming sports. Again we will need help with transport so students can assemble at the Otorohanga Pool by 9.45am for a 10.00am start.

Following that on Friday 7 March, again our strongest swimmers from Year 5 to 8 will compete at the Waitomo Interschool's Swimming Sports held in Te Kuiti. If your child is involved a pink notice will come home next week.

Pool Hours

There has been a slight change with the availability of the pool afterschool. These are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 4.30pm onwards, Thursday 3.15pm onwards. Thank you for your patience.

Head Lice

Please be aware that there have been head lice within our school environment. It is not something transferred in the pool. The chlorine and exposure to air kills head lice as they prefer warm, moist areas with no chemicals. Please revise the information brochure sent home last week.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone for the large amount of responses and meeting attended regarding the fundraising opportunities coming up. There has been great support so far with people doing lots of different jobs. A special thank you to the Verry family for donating lots of mutton for Saturday night's evening meal. The fundraising group are co-ordinating the events and your support has been appreciated. Please call Alannah on 021 855 401 if you have more ideas or support to offer over this weekend's Rotary 4X4 Safari breakfast, lunch, dinner events.

Touch

There has been some interest in children wanting to play touch rugby in a five week tournament in Te Kuiti beginning 6 March until 10 April. Games will be played on Thursday's afterschool at Te Kuiti High School. Grades are mixed (boys and girls) and would consist of Years 1-2 (fun & skills), Years 3-4, Years 5-6 and Years 7-8. There is a minimum of seven per team with two girls on the field at all times. There would be a small sub fee, amount to be confirmed. Thank you for quick responses, teams are being collated and one more coach is needed.

Celebrating Student Achievement

Key targets have been set as part of our Strategic Planning to raise student achievement in relation to the national standards in reading, writing and maths. After end of year assessments in 2013 for literacy and numeracy student data shows pleasing results in both areas. Children have made excellent progress towards developing their knowledge and skills within the classroom programmes.

All students are working towards achieving the National Standard in reading. Our target has been reached with 85% of our students reading at or above their chronological reading age. The peer tutor reading and early words programmes have contributed to this improvement. .

All students are working hard towards achieving the National Standards in written language. 70% of our students are writing at or above the writing standard for their year level. Data also shows this is a 10% gain since June 2013. The ULearn Conference, deliberate acts of teaching and the literacy shed motivational resource has contributed to these gains.

All students are working towards achieving the National Standards in maths. 83% of our students are working at or above their expected numeracy level for their age in mathematics. This indicates an 11% gain since June 2013. The athletics programme has contributed to this